

WAGON WHEEL

March/April 2015

Duvall Historical Society · PO Box 385, Duvall, WA 98019 · www.duvallhistoricalsociety.org

Events

April 6th

“The Wellington Disaster and Other Train Wrecks”

Join the Duvall Historical Society and local historian Allen Miller as he narrates the story of statewide train wrecks, including the worst train disaster in Washington State’s history – a casualty of the 1910 Wellington Avalanche on Stevens Pass. 7:30 p.m. at the Duvall Visitor Center.

May through September

Dougherty House Open House

Beginning Sunday May 3rd, the Dougherty House will be open every Sunday for visitors, from 1pm to 4pm. Stop by for a docent-led tour of the 19th century farmhouse, its outbuildings, and wander through the pioneer cemetery. Free for visitors of all ages.



We are grateful to 4culture, the King County Cultural Services Agency, for their support in the preservation of our heritage.

The Duvall Historical Society Presents



“The Wellington Disaster and Other Train Wrecks”

With Guest Historian

Allen Miller

**Monday, April 6th
7:30pm**

At the Duvall Visitor Center

Attention train lovers and others! Don't miss this presentation about the worst train disaster in our state's history, the Wellington Avalanche near Stevens pass, and other local train wrecks. The presenter will be Allen Miller, noted train buff and local historian. The program will be held on Monday, April 6th at 7:30 p.m. at the Duvall Visitor Center on Main Street in Duvall. The presentation, sponsored by the Duvall Historical Society, is open and free to the public. We look forward to seeing you there!

What Happened to the Warrens?

A Recap of the Duvall Historical Society's March Presentation



On July 3, 1929, Russell Warren picked up his wife Blanch in Port Angeles, and began the drive toward their home west of Forks, Washington. They never made it, and their fate remained unknown – until 2002.

On Monday, March 2nd, 2015, local oceanographer Mike Chapman joined Duvall Historical Society members and guests at the Duvall Visitor Center to shed light on the mystery surrounding the 1929 disappearance of Mr. and Mrs. Warren.

Mr. Chapman shared that the Warrens were on their way home from Port Angeles in 1929, where they had purchased \$100 worth of groceries (a lot in those days) and a new washing machine. They, along with their car, vanished. At that time the road around Lake Crescent had just been built, wasn't paved, and was

eight feet lower than it is today. Very little car debris was discovered and the investigators assumed that the couple had slid off of the road. Unfortunately in those days they didn't have the equipment to search the depths of Lake Crescent, which was roughly 900 feet deep at its lowest point, with banks that dropped off quickly, so they were unable to confirm their suspicions. The mystery surrounding the disappearance of the Warrens remained unsolved, and their sons were left to wonder what had happened to their parents.

Fast-forward more than 70 years, to the point when the National Park Service and a team helped locate the missing couple and their vehicle. In 2002, sonar equipment and divers solved the mystery. During their exploration 600 feet below Lake Crescent's surface, they discovered the car and the washing machine, and a few other artifacts. Later, part of Mr. Warren's body was discovered in a more shallow part of the lake. The car had apparently driven off the road and tumbled down the steep embankment, and had remained undiscovered in the lake until years after both the Warrens and their sons had died. Although the Warrens' sons never learned the truth about their parents' death, the Warrens' grandchildren did, and some of the artifacts now remain at the site, at an underwater memorial commemorating the Lake Crescent tragedy.

The Repainting of Duvall's Historic Train Depot

Duvall's historic Milwaukee Railroad Depot has gone through a number of transitions during its lifetime - and has just now completed its most recent repainting.

The Depot was built by the Milwaukee Railroad in 1911, opened in 1912, and serviced the Duvall area until its closing in 1936. Originally it sat north of its current location and closer to the river by the Woodinville-Duvall Bridge. In 1954 it was nearly dismantled when the station agent (who bought the Depot from the Milwaukee Railroad) began to move it from the original location by taking it apart. Before the station agent could complete the destruction, Ray Burhen purchased the building in 1955. It then went through another restoration in the 1980's, was donated to the city of Duvall in 2001, and now sits in its current location in Depot park, the site it was moved to when relocated from the site farther north near the Woodinville-Duvall Bridge.



The Depot's repainting was partially influenced by the addition of many nearby improvements: a firepit, comfort station and restroom, and an ADA ramp connecting the depot to the Snoqualmie Valley trail. It became apparent that the peeling paint and broken windows of the Depot could be refreshed to match the newness of the surrounding structures, while at the same time preserving its historic character. Together, the city of Duvall, the Duvall Cultural Commission, and former owners Ray and Tove Burhen decided that color of the Depot would return to the historic orange and maroon that it once was – a color combination used often in the early Milwaukee freight and passenger depots.

Be Part of Historic Preservation, Volunteer!

The Duvall Historical Society is continuously looking for volunteers to help in its mission of recording and preserving culture. If you'd like to help with one of the opportunities below, or have an idea of your own, please contact us at webmaster@duvallhistoricalsociety.org.

- Dougherty House docent
- Website design
- Education and outreach
- Book publication
- Maintenance of buildings and gardens
- Cataloging of artifacts, books, and ephemera
- Promotion of Historical Society membership
- Planning of speakers and programs
- Research

Current Officers

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The **Duvall Historical Society** is located at the Dougherty House at 26526 NE Cherry Valley Road, Duvall, WA 98019
Contact us at webmaster@duvallhistoricalsociety.org

The *Wagon Wheel* is a monthly publication of the Duvall Historical Society

Editor: Beth Lepkowski

If you would like to receive a copy, be interviewed for a future edition, have something to share, or would like to be added to or removed from our emailing list, please email

wagonwheeldhs@gmail.com

Become a Member!

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Would you like to receive information about volunteer opportunities? Yes No

Thank you for your support! Please detach and mail this form to PO Box 385, Duvall, WA 98019